

**Kelly Air Force Base**  
**Environmental Restoration Advisory Board**  
**April 17, 2001**  
**Dwight Middle School**

**Members/Alternates Present:**

**Community Members:**

Dr. Gene Lené,  
RAB Community Co-Chair  
Mr. George Rice  
Ms. Peggy Grybos  
Mr. Phillip Farrell (Mr. Roberson's alt.),  
GKDA  
Mr. Armando Quintanilla  
Mr. Mark Puffer  
Mr. Scott Lampright (Mr. Mixon's alt.)  
Mr. Sam Murrah  
Mrs. Dominga Adames  
Mr. Tony Martinez  
Mr. Názirite Pérez  
Ms. Tanya Huerta  
Ms. Annalisa Peace  
Mr. Chuck Meshako, AFBCA  
Mr. Patrick O'Leary (Mr. Person's alt.), UPR

**Government Members:**

Mr. Adam Antwine, AFBCA  
RAB Installation Co-Chair  
Mr. Nicolas Rodriguez, Jr., BMWD  
Mr. Sam Sanchez, SAMHD  
Ms. Laura Stankosky, NCM, USEPA  
  
Ms. Abby Powers (Mr. Weegar's alt.), TNRCC

**Facilitators:**

Mr. John Folk-Williams  
Mr. Tim Sultenfuss

**I. Call to Order**

- A. Mr. John Folk-Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- B. Mr. Williams stated that there were four major goals of the meeting, First, there would be a presentation from Ms. Tanya Huerta on the status of the Environmental Justice Grant application. Second, a report on the presentation made to City Council and plans for follow-up would be presented to the RAB by Air Force Base Conversion Agency (AFBCA), and there would then be a discussion of City involvement in the restoration process. Third, there would be a report on the plume delineation and mapping efforts. Finally, there would be updates and reports on health issues, especially those associated with the use of beryllium. The RAB would have the opportunity to comment on these issues.
- C. Mr. Folk-Williams explained the meeting ground rules and goals in English. He apologized for not presenting the goals and rules in Spanish, explaining that Ms. Ximenes, who usually presents this part of the meeting, is absent today.

- D. Mr. Folk-Williams pointed out that simultaneous translation of the meeting from English to Spanish was available.

## **II. Community Time (6:35 p.m.)**

- A. Mr. Genaro Rendon, an organizer with the Southwest Public Workers Union and the Committee for Environmental Justice Action, began by saying that the RAB did not adequately involve the community in the RAB process. He stated that he believes the RAB is a simulation of community involvement. Furthermore, Mr. Rendon stated he believes the RAB is controlled by the Air Force and can be abolished at will, as had been done at McClellan AFB in California, when the community began to pose too many questions. Mr. Rendon alleged that the community was not notified until late in the day on April 17, 2001 as to the time, place and topics of the RAB meeting (See Vanessa Musgrave comments in second Community Time section). He demanded that the community be informed of meetings with ample time so that the community has a chance to participate. Finally, Mr. Rendon stated his displeasure with the AFBCA that the Final Corrective Measures Plan had been submitted to the TNRCC before the final site characterization was completed, as had been planned in the February meeting. He was unhappy that the community had had no involvement in the decision to submit the report or in the TNRCC submittal, itself. Mr. Rendon stated that the RAB does not get the job done, as he alleged, seventy (70) new cases of ALS have been reported.
- B. Mr. Robert Silvas questioned the classification of soil at a remediation site at Kelly AFB as Class II, Non-Hazardous Waste. Mr. Silvas wondered why the soil had been tarped with plastic if it was non-hazardous. Secondly, Mr. Silvas felt that having GKDA tenants perform analytical testing was a conflict of interest. He also expressed concern about the disposal of metals from the plating shop as it is dismantled. He wanted to know if the metals would end up in consumer goods. Mr. Silvas requested that employees and employers at Kelly AFB receive more training, especially with regards to the origin of and contamination in their drinking water. Finally, Mr. Silvas stated that training for spill prevention and response procedures at Kelly USA is inadequate.
- C. Ms. Esmeralda Camacho, a member of the community from 1014 Division Street, stated she lives over the area with the worst contamination. Ms. Camacho wanted to verbalize her questions, but also submitted them to the RAB on the back of a blue speaker card. She had four questions: 1. Has the Air Force already chosen its preferred technology? She asked if recent construction, including installation of buried walls, at the intersection of Nogalitos and Division, was related to the off-base clean-up. 2. Will the landowners receive compensation for the property devaluation due to the construction associated with the clean-up and the groundwater contamination?; 3. Though medical exams are being given to current residents and employees of Kelly AFB, will exams be provided to former residents and employees of Kelly AFB and the surrounding community?; and 4. Fewer than 200 exams have been given according to the RAB. What is the cost of an exam? This should be public information. Where is the six million dollars going?

## **III. Introduction of the Restoration Advisory Board (6:45 p.m.)**

- A. Each member of the RAB spoke his/her name and affiliation into the microphone.

## **IV. Presentation on Environmental Justice Grant Application (6:50 p.m.)**

- A. Ms. Tanya Huerta, a community member, presented an update on the status of the application for the Environmental Justice (EJ) Grant available from the US EPA. She indicated that the community has established a committee to pursue the EJ Grant comprised of individuals from various backgrounds, including artists, occupational therapists, dentists, teachers, construction workers, physicists, and others. The EJ Committee has submitted the initial pre-grant documentation and will be notified by EPA on April 23<sup>rd</sup> if the application has made it past the first cut. If the pre-grant submittal is accepted by EPA, then a formal application will

be submitted. The pre-grant submittal was developed by Mr. Sam Sanchez and Mr. Gene Lené. The Wesley Community Center has agreed to write-off as the non-profit organization to handle the funds for the community. The EJ committee has established the following goals to be implemented if the EJ Grant is awarded to them:

1. Develop a pamphlet describing reasons individuals ought to undergo a health screening;
2. Publish the pamphlet in English and Spanish;
3. Target distribution of the pamphlet to households with low income that are located over highly contaminated plumes;
4. Reach 100 individuals with this information.

The announcement of the award of EJ Grant monies will occur in September 2001. The money will be allocated in October 2001 and must be spent within 365 days of the award. Congressman Rodriguez designated Hector Morales, one of his staff members, to support the South San Antonio community in this endeavor. Congressman Gonzales and Senator Madla are also supporting the community. Councilmen Garcia and Prado are aware of the EJ Grant Application. Ms. Huerta encourages everyone to thank the City Staff.

B. Discussion:

- Q: Mr. Quintanilla asked why the Health Department is not sponsoring this type of activity.
- A: Ms. Huerta replied that the community could go to the Health Department, but going through the EPA channels is easier. Mr. Sam Sanchez, of the San Antonio Metro Health District, has the support of the community behind this program.
- Q: Mr. George Rice asked if this grant money would be used to review records that have not yet been accessed to better target affected households.
- A: Ms. Huerta stated no, not yet, this was not a goal of this grant.
- Q: Mr. Quintanilla asked how many households would be targeted with this grant money.
- A: Ms. Huerta replied that the final number had not yet been determined. The money will pay for further research of the target households, publication of the pamphlet and postage.
- Q: Mr. Martinez asked if the EJ Committee planned to create a database to track target households, mail-outs, etc and to set-up in an office for individuals participating in the planning and implementation of the stated goals. He feels that administrative cost will consume all of the grant money before the community can be reached. Mr. Martinez suggests the goal of surveying the concentrations of chemicals and boundaries of the plumes and identifying affected households, instead of the pamphlets.
- A: Ms. Huerta responded that the participants are volunteers meeting for free at the Las Palmas library. She further stated that the GIS data already exists to target the most affected households. Ms. Huerta suggested that the community should begin talking with any influential people that might donate time or resources to the effort.
- A: Mr. Sam Sanchez, San Antonio Metro Health District, stated that the analysis of affected households and GIS mapping will be supported by the Health District.
- Q: Mr. Antwine asked about the timeframe until funds are approved.
- A: Ms. Huerta re-iterated that the EPA would notify the EJ Committee on April 23, 2001 if they make the first cut. Then a formal application will be submitted to the EPA by June 2001. The winner of the EJ Grant will be announced in September 2001 and

funding will be available in October 2001. The activities sponsored by the grant money must be planned for each quarter and all monies must be spent within 365 days.

**V. Report on Shallow Groundwater Presentations to the City Council (7:00 p.m.)**

- A. Mr. William Ryan, AFBCA, reported a summary of the presentations submitted to the City Council in January and February 2001, regarding clean-up options at Kelly AFB. Mr. Ryan indicated that in November 2000, Councilman David Garcia requested a formal briefing from the Air Force to be presented on January 25, 2001. These reports consisted of an overview of the shallow groundwater contamination at Kelly AFB, health risks, and potential clean-up options under consideration.
- B. AFBCA, as well as the Public Works Department and the Department of Health presented information to the City Council in January 2001. At that time, City Council directed that another progress report from the City Staff to be presented in February 2001. The Department of Public Works and the Department of Health presented information on clean-up options and progress to the City Council on February 22, 2001.
- C. As a result of these presentations, the City Council directed that an independent contractor be hired to evaluate the clean-up options at Kelly AFB. The Request for Qualifications and Interest (RFQ) was made available March 21, 2001. The City Council will award the contract on April 20, 2001. The selected contractor will have thirty (30) days from Notice to Proceed to complete the report. Also, the independent contractor is required to have no affiliation with the Air Force or current clean-up projects at Kelly AFB.
- D. AFBCA will incorporate comments from this independent contractor into the corrective action plan prior to submission to the regulators.
- E. Discussion:
  - Q: Mr. Quintanilla asked if further actions will be suspended until the City Council obtains the independent contractor's report?
  - A: Mr. Ryan stated that AFBCA will not go to TNRCC in April, as planned, in order to incorporate the comments from the contractor into the corrective measures study. However, the compliance schedule will not be affected. The delay should not be longer than one month.
  - Q: Mr. Quintanilla asked if the RFI had been reviewed by the State yet.
  - A: Mr. Ryan stated that a response to the RFI has not been received. We submitted the RFI to EPA in February. We do not know when a response will be available.
  - Q: Mr. Quintanilla asked if the RFI would have to be started over from scratch if the state rejects the currently submitted RFI.
  - A: Mr. Ryan replied that the state could identify data gaps that would need to be addressed, but that the RFI would not be completely scrapped.
  - Q: Mr. Quintanilla asked how long a delay will be caused by waiting for the City Council independent contractor's report.
  - A: Mr. Ryan stated that approximately 90 days delay will occur in the submittal of the Corrective Measures Study, but that the compliance schedule will be met.
  - Q: Mr. Martinez asked if the City Council is the final authority on what information is incorporated into the Corrective Measures Study.

- A: Mr. Ryan stated that the EPA and TNRCC will be the final authority. City Council comments will be incorporated into the submittal.
- Q: Mr. Martinez that since seven (7) members of the City Council are up for re-election, he would like to know how the AFBCA will apprise the new members of City Council of the progress of the clean-up activities.
- A: Mr. Ryan replied that the AFBCA will have meetings with City Council, as it has done in the past.
- Q: Ms. Huerta asked if waiting on City Council's independent contractor to report was time well spent, since so many Council members could be replaced in the next election.
- A: Mr. Ryan responded that yes, it is time well spent. He stated that the input of City Council has driven activities of other city staff. City Council and staff have good input and the Air Force is happy to accept it.

Comment: Ms. Peace would like to thank Councilman Garcia for his involvement with the Kelly AFB clean-up.

Comment: Mr. George Rice said that a thirty (30) day deadline to complete a thorough evaluation of clean-up options at Kelly AFB was unrealistic, especially for a contractor unfamiliar with the issues.

- Q: Mr. George Rice stated that City Council has asked the Air Force to help fund the independent contractor's report. He asked if the Air Force intends to help finance the report.
- A: Mr. Ryan responded that the Air Force is considering the options to assist City Council with the funding of the independent contractor. However, the Air Force must be careful to avoid a conflict of interest since the consultant must not have any affiliation with the Air Force. AFBCA Headquarters in Washington D.C. will make the final decision.

Comment: Ms. Adame stated that she was not happy with the City Council's involvement in the process or the thirty (30) day deadline requirement.

Q: Dr. Lené asked whose directive it was to create a thirty day deadline.

A: Mr. Ryan stated that he did not know. He said it may have been City Council or another City Staff agency, but it was not him.

A fifteen-minute break was taken at 7:15 p.m.

## **VI. Shallow Groundwater Plume Definition/Mapping Update (7:30 p.m.)**

- A. Mr. Don Buelter, AFBCA, presented information on groundwater plume mapping in response to an action item presented by Mr. Quintanilla. The action item requested 11 x 17 inch maps to be used by the RAB for discussions about shallow groundwater contamination. Specifically, Mr. Buelter prepared several examples of types of maps that have been used for reporting and documentation of chemical concentrations, sample locations, etc. in the shallow groundwater plumes, so that the RAB may decide upon the information it finds to be the most valuable on a map for RAB use.
- B. Mr. Buelter discussed options that could be included on the RAB map, for example:
1. Map parameters on isopleths of equal concentration by zone (like the maps in the Permit and Compliance Plan, Table 2; based on annual sampling event; current through June 2000);

2. Show sample locations that exceed threshold values for any parameter (like the Zone 4 RFI map; multiple data sources; includes new wells; only show chemicals of concern, primarily solvents)
  3. Permit and Compliance Plan Basewide Plume Maps will plot only the ten (10) chemicals studied by the EBS (arsenic, chromium, perchloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), dichloroethene (DCE), vinyl chloride (VC), chlorobenzene, benzene, manganese, nickel), will show the sample locations and concentrations, and the contour isopleths will show concentrations that exceed drinking water standards. This map may be difficult to read at 11 x 17 inch scale.
- C. Some other options include: overlay potentiometric water levels; show PCW and TCE concentrations only; show DCE and Vinyl Chloride concentrations only; show isolated areas of nickel and chromium concentrations only; show benzene and chlorobenzene concentrations only; and show manganese and arsenic concentrations only.
- D. Discussions:
- Q: Mr. Sam Murrah asked if the manganese is natural in the groundwater.
- A: Mr. Buelter stated that the element is a parameter in the compliance plan. Some amount of manganese is natural. The Zone 4 RFI calculated background levels, but he does not know what the concentration was.
- Q: Ms. Tanya Huerta asked what is the source of the manganese in the samples.
- A: Mr. Buelter stated that it is natural.
- Q: Ms. Tanya Huerta asked if the manganese concentrations are shown on one of the sample maps.
- A: Mr. Buelter replied that the concentrations are not plotted. The sample points that have exceeded drinking water standards are plotted. The Zone 4 RFI maps show concentrations, but data comes from multiple sources.
- Q: Mr. Quintanilla asked for an explanation of the difference between Zone RFI Maps and EBS maps.
- A: Mr. Buelter answered that the Zone Maps show zone-specific, required parameters from the compliance plan, rather than listing all concentrations of parameters analyzed beyond the ten listed chemicals.
- Q: Mr. Quintanilla asked if plume growth had been detected from last year or previous times..
- A: Mr. Buelter replied that the plume does not appear to be growing and that the extent of the plume has been discovered. Some wells that were sampled showed non-detectable limits on parameters of concern. Some wells were dry last year due to the drought. It is unknown how that may affect concentrations in other sample locations.
- Q: Mr. Quintanilla asked if rainfall or drought expands or contracts the plume.
- A: Mr. Buelter replied that the amount of rainfall does not appear to affect the plume extent.
- Comment: Mr. Quintanilla stated that he feels the public will benefit from having streets shown on the RAB maps.
- Q: Mr. Tony Martinez asked if Bexar Metropolitan maps were coordinated with maps generated by AFBCA or Kelly AFB contractors.
- A: Mr. Buelter replied that the Bexar Metropolitan maps indicate Edwards Aquifer water trends, while Kelly AFB maps indicate shallow groundwater. The two entities

communicate with each other, but no real correlation is made between mapping efforts because the water bodies being mapped are not the same.

Comment: Ms. Tanya Huerta recommended handing out a brochure on safe drinking water thresholds to the public with the maps to help answer questions about the concentrations shown on the maps. She indicated that Ms. Laura Stankosky, US EPA, had given her a brochure before. Ms. Stankosky will look for this information and will bring copies to the next RAB meeting.

Q: Mr. George Rice said that if the 1998 RAB maps could be updated to show current detection locations, concentrations, and streets, they would suffice for RAB use.

A: Mr. Buelter stated that the base maps are much better than they used to be and the AFBCA would be willing to help develop the maps with the requested information. He also stated that the original maps were not intended to be 11"x17" so the street names may be difficult to read.

Comment: Ms. Huerta suggested that the drinking water standards be included on the RAB map.

Q: Mr. Ray Bottello asked if Mr. Buelter had all the information he needed to begin developing the RAB maps.

A: Mr. Buelta responded that he had.

## **VII. Report on Beryllium Use at Kelly AFB (7:50p.m.)**

A. Mr. Chuck Meshako, AFBCA, presented his report on the historical use of beryllium at Kelly AFB. Mr. Meshako began by explaining that beryllium is a metal that has been used in the aerospace industry because of its physical properties: it is lightweight and rigid, with high heat resistance. Beryllium has been used to manufacture high performance parts like C-5 brakes. Beryllium alloys, as stated by Mr. Meshako, are used in variety of common applications, such as dental bridges and the manufacture of golf clubs. Mr. Meshako stated that beryllium contamination in the soil and shallow groundwater at Kelly AFB is not a big issue due to low levels.

B. Mr. Meshako explained that beryllium is a health hazard when it is machined or ground. Beryllium was used at the Medina Annex from 1965 to 1971 and was a known health hazard at the time of its use. As a result, the Bio-Environmental Engineering Office at Kelly AFB has records of beryllium use and environmental and health monitoring that was conducted during those years. Mr. Meshako reviewed all approximately 120 pages of existing data. Additionally, he interviewed the Bio-Environmental Engineering staff about the historical uses of beryllium at Kelly AFB. Mr. Meshako stated that his most current information came from the interviews.

C. He made the following observations regarding beryllium use at Building 1420, the Special Weapons Directorate, now known as the Nuclear Weapons Directorate:

1. Building 1420 was built in 1954 and contained the "Beryllium Room" that had an approximate area of 600 square feet.
2. The "Beryllium Room" was used primarily for the machining of re-entry vehicles from 1965 to 1969. Four-inch by six-inch beryllium hatch covers were drilled for installation on aircraft and/or ICBMs.
3. Production began in Building 1420 in February 1965, at which time environmental and personnel monitoring was conducted. Analysis of air samples for respirable beryllium in March and April of 1965 indicated levels below the 1965 Permissible

Exposure Limit (PEL) of  $2.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  as established by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

4. Kelly AFB mandated the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the Beryllium Room, anyway. Personnel were required to wear respirators and special clothing and exit the building through a decontamination line. Also, vents were installed in the building to provide inflow of fresh air.
  5. Sketches made at the time of air monitoring in 1965 are available in the records for Bio-Environmental Engineering. Blueprints of the room are also available.
  6. Baseline health exams and personnel monitoring were conducted at Kelly AFB in 1966. At least ten employees were given medical examinations in 1966. Throughout the period of operation of the "Beryllium Room" sixteen sampling events were conducted. Kelly AFB records do not indicate illness and/or overexposure in any employees.
  7. No beryllium was used in this shop from 1969 to 1972. The mission of Building 1420 was changed in 1972 to the use of "Compound O", a material that contains depleted uranium. Records beyond 1973 do not discuss the presence or absence of beryllium in Building 1420.
  8. Recent sweepings from Building 1420 were analyzed for the presence of beryllium, but none was detected.
- D. He made the following observations about beryllium alloy use in Building 324 and Building 303, based upon records reviews and interviews with Bio-Environmental Engineering staff:
1. Aerospace bushings were manufactured in batches once every few years in these buildings. Production has been limited to two or three times in the last ten years.
  2. These bushings were constructed of beryllium and copper alloys.
  3. Records from 1967, obtained from Bio-Environmental Engineering, do not indicate that Kelly AFB assumed any risk to personnel or the environment from operations in Buildings 324 and 303.
  4. OSHA conducted personnel sampling in 1990. All samples indicated beryllium levels below detectable limits.
- E. He made the following observations about Building 375:
1. This building housed the C-5 brake shop. Brakes were constructed of elemental beryllium metal.
  2. Air monitoring was conducted in 1985. Samples indicated beryllium levels below the OSHA established PEL.
- F. Discussions:
- Q: Ms. Tanya Huerta asked why only ten employees from the Beryllium Room, Building 1420, received medical exams. She wondered if they were tested due to suspected illness or if there were other employees that were not tested.
- A: Mr. Meshako replied that the exams were intended to be a baseline measurement to verify that personnel were healthy enough to continue working in the Beryllium Room. He also stated that the records were not clear about the regularity or intent of the medical examinations.
- Q: Ms. Huerta asked how long before symptoms of a beryllium-related illness appear.



- A: Mr. Meshako replied that he is an engineer and does not know the answers to the medical questions. He asked if anyone present might have a response.
- Q: Mr. Quintanilla asked if exit physicals were performed for the employees in Building 1420 and if so, how many. This question was skipped because Dr. Cox came forward to respond to Ms. Huerta's question regarding symptoms of beryllium exposure.
- A: Col. Cox stood up at the community microphone and responded that medical exams are usually conducted as a pre-placement exam for employees that are new or are entering an environment where hazardous materials are located. Follow-up exams would be conducted periodically, usually once each year. Finally, an exit or termination exam is usually conducted when the employee leaves the organization or is transferred to a different work station. He also discussed the types of illness associated with beryllium exposure by stating the following:
1. Effects of beryllium exposure could take years to exhibit symptoms.
  2. Beryllium exposure is usually by inhalation and causes lung problems that, when chronic, is called berylliosis.
  3. Short-term exposure to respirable beryllium is known as *acute*. Symptoms include burning eyes and trouble breathing. Col. Cox stated that acute symptoms are uncommon these days, due to a better understanding of the effects of exposure and the use of PPE.
  4. Long-term exposure to Respirable beryllium is known as *chronic*. It may take years to exhibit symptoms of chronic berylliosis. The disease is like an allergic reaction causing difficulty breathing.
- Q: Ms. Peggy Grybos asked if Federal employees at Kelly AFB had applied for Federal money available to individuals that were exposed to beryllium during their term of service.
- A: Col. Cox stated that the Employees Compensation Program is not fully on-line yet. Calls are being taken, but money is not available. He also stated that very few of the calls received up to this point have been from affected employees or former employees. Rather, the callers have been seeking information.
- Q: Ms. Grybos asked when the program was scheduled to go on-line and when information would become available.
- A: Dr. Cox replied that the funding would become available in July 2001.
- Q: Ms. Huerta asked how an individual would know if they had been exposed to beryllium.
- A: Col. Cox stated that personnel would have been notified by an occupational physician prior to assignment in the work area.
- Q: Ms. Huerta persisted, would a doctor from 35 years ago know of the dangers associated with respirable beryllium?
- A: Col. Cox replied that the doctor probably would have known about the dangers, even 35 years ago.
- Q: Mr. Quintanilla asked if Mr. Meshako researched Building 361.
- A: Mr. Meshako replied that Building 361 had not come up in the interviews with Bio-Environmental Engineering. He stated that there are some buildings on base that were not researched.

Comment: Mr. Quintanilla stated that he was aware of beryllium use in Building 361.

Comment: Mr. Meshako stated that there are no records of historical beryllium use in Building 361 in the Bio-Environmental Engineering Office.

### **VIII. Health Issues Update (8:15 p.m.)**

A. Mr. Chuck Meshako, AFBCA, presented an update report to the RAB outlining the status of three, current Air Force projects:

1. In response to Mr. Armando Quintanilla's 16 January 01 RAB Action Item request for a status update of the fuel misting report due to ATSDR, Mr. Meshako referred the RAB to Tab 3, Item 9 in the RAB Materials Package. The formal Response read as follows, "Several reports were gathered by AFIERA and provided to ATSDR. To date, no further action has been requested by ATSDR. See attached letter for a list of documents provided."
2. Mr. Meshako informed the RAB that scientists from John Hopkins University have visited Kelly AFB and teleconferenced with the TNRCC, Bexar Metropolitan Water District, EPA, and GKDA. Together with the Air Force, John Hopkins University scientists will evaluate the health issues associated with contamination at Kelly AFB and develop a strategy to address public health concerns. The team from Johns Hopkins began work last Thursday and Friday. The project is expected to be a two-year effort.
3. Finally, he spoke about the Public Center for Environmental Health. Mr. Meshako stated that the Air Force would be working with the San Antonio Metro Health District to clarify the goals of the Center. Funding agencies need to be identified. Separate funding is not readily available via current Air Force appropriations, so the Air Force is researching ways to align the mission of the Center with existing funding streams.

B. Discussions:

Q: Ms. Tanya Huerta asked if the objective of the Center would be to develop strategies for public health and restoration projects.

A: Mr. Meshako stated that the Air Force would align existing Federal money streams to address health issues.

Comment: Ms. Huerta suggested the Air Force use volunteer, community support and urged him to let the citizens' help.

Q: Mr. Quintanilla repeatedly asked why the attachments weren't included in the documents provided in the Materials Package by Mr. Meshako.

A: Mr. Meshako repeatedly replied that the attachments were too thick to include.

Q: Mr. Roy Botello asked if the attachments were available to the public for review.

A: Mr. Meshako stated that the documents are not currently available. He offered to check on the copyright restrictions on the documents.

Q: Mr. Quintanilla asked which results mentioned by Mr. Meshako in the attached reports were quantifiable? Were these analyses forwarded on to ATSDR for their review?

A: Mr. Meshako replied that this information was developed for ATSDR use and they do have copies of all analysis.

### **IX. Motion**

A. Ms. Tanya Huerta mentioned that the RAB needed to approve the meeting minutes from 16 January 01.

- B. Prof. Lené asks if this is o.k. with the RAB members present.
- C. Mr. Quintanilla remarks that it is not on the Agenda, but it is o.k. with him.
- D. Prof. Lené asks if there are any comments to the previous meeting minutes.
- E. Ms. Laura Stankosky notes that on page 5 of the minutes: the “Environmental Justice” presentation was given by Ms. Olivia Balandran, not Ms. Tanya Huerta.
- F. Ms. Tanya Huerta stated that she would like to see the meeting minutes presented in Spanish and English. Also, she stated that she was in attendance at the 16 January 01 meeting, not absent as recorded in the minutes.
- G. Mr. Adam Antwine asked if Spanish copies of the minutes should be brought to the meeting or included in the RAB Materials Package binder.
- H. Ms. Huerta recommended they be included in the binder. Mr. Quintanilla agreed.
- I. Mr. Sam Sanchez made Motion to Approve the Minutes, as corrected.
- J. Mr. Scott Lampright seconded the motion.
- K. The motion passed unanimously.

## **X. Committee Discussion**

Q: Ms. Peggy Grybos asked how the central nervous system is affected by TCE. She asked if scientists knew of a connection between exposure to TCE and the disease ALS.

A: Mr. Meshako replied that he really did not know.

Comment: Ms. Huerta suggested that this information be submitted as an Action Item for the next RAB meeting in July 2001.

Comment: Mr. Sam Sanchez stated that ALS was not associated with any specific environmental chemical. Studies have been focused at the genetic level to determine if an individual has a pre-disposition to the disease.

Q: Ms. Peggy Grybos asked if a combination of pre-disposition to the disease and environmental factors could contribute to ALS.

A: Mr. Sanchez replied that there were many possible scenarios, but no solid evidence at this time. He also stated that approximately 10% of cases have been known to have a familial association.

Comment: Ms. Grybos stated that she would like more information on this topic. Ms. Huerta, Ms. Stankosky, and Mr. Sanchez each agreed to research the topic further.

Comment: Mr. Sam Sanchez stated he would find a toxicological profile for TCE to bring to the next RAB meeting.

Comment: Mr. Antwine announced that the GKDA has received the final Building 171 air sampling report. He stated that it was a very positive survey. Mr. Phillip Farrell has copies of the report, if anyone would like to review it.

Comment: Mr. Phillip Farrell stated that the GKDA had hired Dr. Perkins from the Houston Health Science Center Border Campus at the University of Texas at San Antonio to review the report. Dr. Perkins, according to Mr. Farrell, stated that the air was cleaner than average. He recommended a greater flow of outside air be vented into the building. A copy of Dr. Perkins report will be made available to RAB members. Members of the community may submit a written request to the RAB to obtain a copy of the report.

Q: Mr. Quintanilla asked if the asbestos had been removed from Building 171.

A: Mr. Farrelll stated that the building has been gutted and he assumes the asbestos is gone, too, though he did visually observe that re-construction.

Q: Mr. Quintanilla asked if the building still has rats.

A: Mr. Farrell replied there are still some two-legged rats.

## **XI. Citizens Comment Time (8:20 p.m.)**

A. Mr. Benito Perez, retired in 1998 from Kelly AFB after 24 years of civil service, stated that he has asbestosis and other, as yet unidentified, lung diseases. He alleged that he has been to four pulmonary specialists. The doctors are unable to identify all of the issues causing disease in his lungs. Mr. Perez said that he worked in Building 324 during his years of service. His supervisor did warn him of dangers, but only for respirable silica, not asbestos or other dangerous respirable particles. He stated that his exit exam did not check for lung damage. The Air Force will not help with his doctor's bills. He feels that his doctor bills are too high for him and the Air Force is blowing him off.

B. Ms. Katherine Ramos, a student attorney at St. Mary's University wanted to verbalize the following questions to the RAB, though she submitted some on the back of her public comment card:

1. Has the EPA responded to the deferral letter discussed at the last RAB meeting? Will the response be made available to the public?
2. Are there written guidelines that discuss how to notify the public of RAB meeting times, locations, and topics? How does the notice process work?
3. What does the RAB consider "timely" notice of these meetings?
4. How will the lack of data from dry wells be considered statistically when analyzing sampling results?
5. What are the fluctuations in concentrations and how does rainfall affect concentration? How much do the concentrations vary?

She further stated that the public should have the drinking water standards made available to them before the next RAB meeting so that individuals understand the critical concentrations. Ms. Ramos offered the assistance of student attorneys from St. Mary's University in distributing the drinking water standards to the community since the comments are due in June and a decision must be made quickly.

C. Mr. Ben Galvan, an ex-employee of Kelly AFB, stated that he would like to know if the Air Force would be reporting on the health effects of handling depleted uranium. He stated that he worked as supervisor to twenty individuals that handled depleted uranium. He asked what the long-term health effects of exposure to depleted uranium are.

D. Discussion:

Q: Mr. George Rice asked the RAB what the status of the deferral letter was.

A: Dr. Lené stated that the letter was submitted to EPA about three weeks ago. The EPA has responded that they had received the letter and would send comments.

Comment: Mr. Quintanilla stated that he would like the EPA to appear before the RAB and present a status report on what they have done at Kelly AFB.

Comment: Ms. Laura Stankosky, US EPA, stated that she would request again that the EPA present an update to the RAB.

Q: Mr. Quintanilla also wanted to know if the EPA would provide an update on the response to the congressman also. He also asked when the responses would become available.

A: Ms. Stankosky replied that both response letters are with the Regional Administrator and she does not know his schedule.

## **XII. Action Item Discussion (8:40 p.m.)**

Q: Ms. Peggy Grybos asked if EPA tells applicants for Superfund designation that an appeal of actions under CERCLA is allowed under RCRA.

A: Ms. Stankosky stated that the laws under consideration are the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), a.k.a. the Superfund Act. Members of the public do not apply or request removal from CERCLA listing or RCRA listing. EPA made a decision not to file contamination at Kelly AFB under CERCLA because remediation compliance is being performed under RCRA. Ordinarily, CERCLA is used for abandoned sites that have no funding for clean-up. No appeal is necessary to have CERCLA enforced or repealed. It is an internal decision of EPA.

Q: Ms. Annalise Peace, from the Regional Clean Air and Water Association, asked who is responsible for submitting public notice of RAB meetings.

A: Mr. Antwine stated that a contractor handles the notification.

Comment: Ms. Peace suggested that a memo be drafted to the contractor to send out an earlier notice.

Q: Mr. Mark Puffer, a community member, asked how the notices are currently being distributed.

Comment: Mr. John Folk-Williams suggested writing a public notice protocol for each type of RAB meeting and making this available.

Comment: Ms. Huerta asked if the ATSDR Report was available for review. If so, she suggests putting the fact that the Report is available for review in the notification because people are interested. Also, Ms. Huerta noted that a previous action item, to post a timeline of the clean-up activities and a flowchart of agencies involved, had not been done at this meeting. She would like it to be at the next meeting of the RAB.

Q: Mr. Quintanilla asked if the public notice had been published in the newspaper.

A: Ms. Vanessa Musgrave, AFBCA, stated that the notice had run in the Sunday Edition of the San Antonio Express News, in English and Spanish.

Q: Ms. Huerta asked if the notice had been published to the web page.

A: Ms. Musgrave replied that the website has been down due to Base Re-Alignment and Closure (BRAC), while the server is physically moved to a different building.

Q: Ms. Huerta asked when the website will be back online? It has been a long time.

A: Ms. Musgrave said she was not sure, but it would be soon.

## **XIII. Meeting Wrap-Up (8:50 p.m.)**

A. Mr. Folk-Williams announced that the next, scheduled RAB meeting will be in July around the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month. He asked the RAB members in attendance if a earlier meeting would be appropriate. Mr. Sam Sanchez stated that if new information about the ATSDR became available, then he would like a special meeting. Mr. Adam Antwine stated that the Air Force has been working on a meeting time that would not interfere with Base Closure during the second week of July.

B. Potential Agenda Items:

1. ATSDR Update;

2. Presentation of Independent Consultant's Report to City Council;
  3. Presentation by the Air Force regarding Zone 4 Clean-Up Plan (CMS)
  4. Information about the effects of TCE on the central nervous system;
  5. EPA presentation and/or response to the deferral letter and it's response to the Councilmen
  6. Draft of Public Notification Guidelines
  7. Review memo to contractor on public notification
- C. Mr. John Folk-Williams stated that the RAB would consider a special meeting before July, if events warranted
- D. Mr. George Rice asked if the CMS had been completed. Mr. Antwine stated that is has not been completed. It will be delayed until comments from City Council have been reviewed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.